

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. NATIONAL RAIL STRIKE HITS INDIA: THE LONG THREATENED AND POTENTIALLY CRIPPLING NATIONAL RAILWAY STRIKE BEGAN ON MAY 8. RAILWAY SERVICE TO ALL MAJOR URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL CENTERS HAS BEEN SEVERELY AFFECTED AND CONTINUATION OF THE STRIKE COULD CAUSE SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES IN MOST URBAN CENTERS WITHIN TWO WEEKS. GOVERNMENT STEPS TO COUNTERACT THE STRIKE, INCLUDING USING THE MILITARY, POLICE AND NON-STRIKING WORKERS, ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE. TRADE UNIONS OF ALL POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS, EXCEPT FOR THOSE ALIGNED WITH THE CONGRESS PARTY, WILL MEET SOON TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SYMPATHY ACTION. (STATE)

2. BRANDT'S RESIGNATION--THE NEXT STEPS: THE ANTICIPATED SCENARIO IS AS FOLLOWS:

--MAY 15: THE ELECTION OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT BY THE BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG. SCHEEL WILL BE ELECTED.

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--MAY 16: THE ELECTION OF A NEW CHANCELLOR BY THE BUNDESTAG. SCHMIDT WILL BE THE SDP/FDP COALITION CANDIDATE AND WILL BE ELECTED. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN

THE SDP AND THE FDP ON THE DIVISION OF MINISTERIAL POSTS CONTINUE INTENSIVELY.

--MAY 17: PRESENTATION BY SCHMIDT OF HIS NEW CABINET TO THE BUNDESTAG. (STATE)

3. TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT FALLS: THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT WAS DEFEATED ON A BUDGET VOTE MAY 8 BY A VOTE OF 137 (NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVES) TO 123 (TRUDEAU'S LIBERALS, JOINED BY THE SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY). TRUDEAU HAS RESIGNED AND WILL ASK THE GOVERNOR GENERAL TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT MAY 9. (STATE)

4. ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED: PRIME MINISTER JOHAN-NESSON IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE LEFTIST COALITION GOVERNMENT FAILED TO GAIN THE NEEDED LIBERAL LEFT PARTY SUPPORT ON ECONOMIC MEASURES, AND HE THEREFORE WAS CALLING FOR NEW ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH. THE MINORITY COALITION WILL STAY ON IN A CARETAKER STATUS UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. (TICKER)

5. PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS FOR ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC: ALLEGEDLY WITH GENERAL SPINOLA'S BACKING, SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES MET WITH EC COMMISSION MEMBERS AND SAID THE SOCIALIST PARTY WILL WORK FOR AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH THE EC. SOARES ALSO SAID HE HOPED TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER OR, AT LEAST, FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. (STATE)

6. BRITISH TIMETABLE FOR EC RENEGOTIATION DISCUSSIONS: THE BRITISH CABINET WILL REVIEW THE EC RENEGOTIATION ISSUE IN LATE MAY IN TIME FOR FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO MAKE A DETAILED STATEMENT AT THE JUNE 4 MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL. EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI IS INVITED TO VISIT LONDON MAY 13. IT IS SPECULATED THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT ANTI-MARKETEERS WILL BE MORE FORCEFUL
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IN THE NEXT CABINET LEVEL DISCUSSIONS. (STATE)

7. TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH GREECE: GREECE IS DELAYING A REPLY TO A TURKISH INITIATIVE FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION AT THE CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. TURKEY WILL NOT FOREGO ITS RIGHTS FOR ACCESS TO AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCES, HOWEVER, SIMPLY BECAUSE

GREECE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE. (STATE)

8. CHILE SPEEDS UP GRANTING OF SAFE-CONDUCT TO ASYLEES:
AFTER MONTHS OF INACTION, CHILE IS APPARENTLY MAKING A
CONCERTED EFFORT TO LOWER THE NUMBER OF ASYLEES IN
SANTIAGO'S DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. A FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED OUR EMBASSY THAT EMBASSIES IN
SANTIAGO WILL SOON BE CLEARED OF ASYLEES, BUT HE RE-
FRAINED FROM GIVING A SPECIFIC DATE. (STATE) RUSH

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